



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CITY OF HAMPTON ON 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS

Understanding the City's Budget

Part I — How the City Budget is Financed



▲ Mayor Mamie E. Locke (right) releases a large mouth bass into the Bass Pro Shops Lake as part of the groundbreaking ceremonies which took place on Thursday, October 17. The 8-acre lake will be adjacent to the facility. The Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World retail store in Hampton will encompass up to 110,000 square feet—the size of 2 football fields—and offer a huge selection of fishing, hunting, camping, and marine items. The store, which anchors The Power Plant of Hampton Roads, is expected to be a major tourist draw in Hampton. It will open next fall.

New Youth Advocates Network to Celebrate Kickoff

Want to learn more about how to share and learn great ideas? "Link 'N' Learn" will lead the way! "Link 'N' Learn" is a youth advocates network. It is open to organizations and individuals who work with youth to develop positive mentoring relationships or who are currently involved in work that promotes the "40 Developmental Assets" (below). "Link 'N' Learn" will celebrate its kickoff on Tuesday, November 19. The kickoff will be hosted by the Coalition for Youth and sponsored by In-SYNC Partnerships, Right Choices for Youth, Girl Scouts, Six House, The Center for Child and Family Services, Alternatives, and New Life Center. If you would like to find out more about the "Link 'N' Learn" program and the kickoff celebration, please call Jay Johnson at 728-3280.

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Developmental assets are the 40 "building blocks" of healthy youth development — the qualities and experiences that ALL young people need for success. The following are the 40 Developmental Assets:

1. Family support
2. Positive family communication
3. Other adult relationships
4. Caring neighborhood
5. Caring school climate
6. Parental involvement in schooling
7. Community values youth
8. Youth as resources
9. Service to others
10. Safety
11. Family boundaries
12. School boundaries
13. Neighborhood boundaries
14. Adult role models
15. Positive peer influence
16. High expectations
17. Creative activities
18. Youth programs
19. Religious community
20. Time at home
21. Achievement motivation
22. School engagement
23. Homework
24. Bonding to school
25. Reading for pleasure
26. Caring for others
27. Equality and social justice
28. Integrity
29. Honesty
30. Responsibility
31. Restraint
32. Planning and decision-making
33. Interpersonal competence
34. Cultural competence
35. Resistance skills
36. Peaceful conflict resolution
37. Personal power
38. Self-esteem
39. Sense of purpose
40. Positive view of personal future

As a citizen of Hampton, you depend on a variety of essential services to meet your family's needs. You expect your children or grandchildren to receive an outstanding education. You want your neighborhood to be safe, clean and attractive.

But where do the dollars come from for these and other services? And with the cost of providing services going up each year, how does the city plan for the future?

It's a challenge, especially considering that local taxes account for 83% of Hampton's city budget. Only 17% of the budget is financed by the state.

Here's a breakdown of where the five largest local taxes come from to pay for city services:

■ Real estate taxes	34%
■ Personal property taxes	14%
■ Sales taxes	7%
■ Business licenses	4%
■ Meals taxes	4%

The problem is that these locally generated revenues are experiencing slow-to-no growth. Meanwhile, the state relies on very elastic taxes such as income and sales, which grow much more rapidly. And while cities have undertaken a number of cost-saving measures, the situation for cities is still serious. There are many reasons for this:

- Local governments' revenue sources do not grow as quickly as the state's. When cities bring new industries and jobs into their areas, for example, the state largely benefits from income and sales taxes, while the cities must provide the many new services.

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- Development is a great source of potential new revenue, but older cities which are land-locked (like Hampton) have very little room left for new development.

- The state requires cities to provide a number of ongoing services such as education, law enforcement, social services, jails and courts. These are called "mandated services." But state funding to help pay for these services falls short.

Taxes paid by local residents are high, relative to other states in the Southeast. But Virginia state taxes are relatively low. Here are the numbers:

- Virginia ranks 12th in personal income, when compared to other states. This means that we are a fairly wealthy state, compared to others.
- Virginia is ranked 44th in state taxes as a percentage of personal income. This means that our citizens pay much lower state taxes than in other states.
- Among our 50 states, Virginia ranks 49th in what it spends to provide services to its citizens. This means there is less state support for schools, police services, roads, etc.

To sum up, we pay lower state taxes — but as citizens we receive less state funding for services at the local level. That translates into a greater tax burden on the local taxpayer.

For more information, watch Assistant City Manager Mary Bunting's "Budget 101" presentation to the Neighborhood College on The City Channel — TV 47, 6 p.m. on weeknights.

Watch your November 21 "City Page" for Part II in this series, "How the City Budget is Spent."

Adopt-A-Spot

The Hampton Clean City Commission manages the Adopt-A-Spot program in Hampton. The program applies to public areas of the city and is intended to enhance the environment and appearance of our community. Currently there are over 80 active Adopt-A-Spot sites throughout the city sponsored by individuals, groups and businesses. The sites range from large areas to the city street in front of your house. It's easy to Adopt-A-Spot. Simply call the HCCC at 727-6394. They will help you fill out an agreement and provide you with all the gear you need to safely care for your Adopt-A-Spot site. It doesn't cost a dime.

And the winner is...

Belva Wineman, 920 Old Big Bethel Road, is the Hampton Clean City Commission's 2002 Yard of the Year award winner. The award is the highlight of the Yards Are Really Distinctive Showplaces beautiful yards contest, which is administered by the Commission's Beautification Committee. Contestants are judged not just on the appearance of their yard, but also on the measures they take to maintain their landscapes in an environmentally friendly way. For example, Wineman's large yard was planted in St. Augustine grass, a turf that requires less water.

For more information about the contest, the Beautification Committee, or the Hampton Clean City Commission, call 727-6394 or e-mail hccc@hampton.gov.



CERT Volunteers Protect the Community

Ever wondered if you would actually be able to use that fire extinguisher you have under the kitchen cabinet if you had to? Ever been curious about how average men and women are able to raise portions of collapsed structures to rescue victims trapped beneath? Have you ever thought about how you would react if faced with a disaster that affected your community, your neighborhood, your home and your family?

You can find out the answers to these questions and learn the skills that go along with them by signing up to be a CERT volunteer through Hampton's Division of Fire and Rescue. It's free, it's fun, and you'll gain the confidence of knowing you are ready to serve your community in a crisis.

The CERT program was instituted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is designed to teach citizens disaster preparedness. It also teaches ways to

survive a disaster for up to three days without the aid of emergency services. The seven-week class touches on many types of disasters (earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, ice storms, hurricanes and hazmat incidents), but emphasis is placed on those disasters that are more likely to occur in our area.

The CERT program is designed to be practical, interesting and fun. While the program is interactive, there are no special physical requirements to participate in the program.

Hampton is the first city in the state to launch a CERT program. The weekly classes are taught by Emergency Services instructors and are about 2½ hours in length. The CERT program is an official FEMA program, and participants who complete the program receive certificates.

For more information, call 727-1094 or go to <http://www.hamptonfire.tn.net>



▲ Governor Warner paid a visit to Hampton on Saturday, October 19, to participate in a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Disaster Simulation Exercise.

Hampton to Host National COMPA Conference

Hampton will host the 32nd National Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA) next year. The conference will be held February 5 through 8 at the Hampton Holiday Inn and Conference Center.

National COMPA, a broad-based minority section of the American Society for Public Administrators (ASPA), serves public administrators, students and other professionals involved in public service.

If you are interested in learning more about National COMPA and would like to attend the conference or volunteer, please contact Chris Sneed, Conference Co-Chair, or Lori Greene, Registration Chair, at 727-6377.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

11/9 OUTDOOR COOKING — 4-5 p.m. — Buckroe Beach Stage. Come out to Buckroe Beach for a clambake. Participants will become familiar with the techniques involved with this tasty tradition. The food will be provided for you. Fee: \$3 per person. For more information, call 850-5134.

11/13 CITY COUNCIL MEETING — 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers (8th floor, City Hall). For more information, call 727-6392 or visit the web site at www.hampton.gov

11/14 CITIZENS' UNITY COMMISSION — 6:30 p.m. Neighborhood Office Conference Room (5th floor, City Hall). For more information, call 728-3279.

11/15 STARGAZING AT GRUNDLAND CREEK PARK — Sunset — Grundland Creek Park. Join an astronomer for a guided tour of the night sky. With the aid of a telescope, explore the rings of Saturn and the moons of Jupiter. There will be a limited number of telescopes available for viewing. Feel free to bring your own. Dress for the weather. For more information, call 850-5134.

11/17 GRANDVIEW NATURE WALK — 1-2 p.m. — Grandview Nature Preserve. This walk will introduce you to an undeveloped beach and salt marsh. Bring your entire family to see up

close what live plants and animals live there, and learn the history of the nature preserve. Grandview Nature Preserve is located on State Park Drive off of Beach Road. For more information, call 850-5134.

11/18 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION — 6 p.m. — 2315 Victoria Boulevard, Resource Center. For more information, call 727-6460.

PLANNING COMMISSION — 3:30 p.m. Council Chambers (8th floor, City Hall).

11/20 SCHOOL BOARD — 7:30 p.m. Jones Magnet Middle School, 1819 Nickerson Boulevard. For more information, visit www.sbo.hampton.k12.va.us

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